



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

— *Lee Holloway* —
Chairman of the Board

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GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE MUST ADDRESS MAJOR BLOW TO MASS TRANSIT

Chairman Holloway statement on Governor Doyle's budget vetoes

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway released the following statement in response to Governor Jim Doyle's 2009-11 State Budget vetoes:

"Governor Doyle has let down citizens who ride the Milwaukee County Transit System 42 million times per year. This morning's veto of a sales tax for mass transit is a serious setback. For years, my colleagues have joined me in asking the Governor and Legislature to enact dedicated funding. Our mass transit system provides the economic infrastructure for Milwaukee County and beyond. Without this funding stream, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission estimates bus service will be reduced by 35% less than seven months from now.

"Today, I am calling upon the Governor and Legislature to act immediately to introduce legislation to remedy this loss for citizens and employers who depend on mass transit. Last November, Milwaukee County voters supported property tax relief via a sales tax for transit, parks, culture, and emergency medical services. While today's veto was disappointing, I call on the Governor and the legislature to take this as an opportunity to swiftly enact separate enabling legislation that fulfills the wishes of these voters.

"Failure to follow-up this veto with immediate legislative action to stabilize the Milwaukee County Transit System would have significant consequences for riders and jeopardizes approval of the federal application for the proposed Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee (KRM) commuter rail link. The Governor wants a regional approach to transit, but those who represent Racine and Kenosha counties have not embraced a sales tax to pay for transit. Milwaukee County voters have. Despite vetoing our bus sales tax, the Governor enacted a car rental fee for the KRM largely generated by visitors to Milwaukee County's airport. This is not a regional approach, especially when our bus system is left in the dust.

"This veto means residents and businesses that depend on Milwaukee County buses are now in serious jeopardy. We at the County Board took the bold step of bringing this issue before the voters in a referendum last November. We intend to continue urging both the Governor and members of the Legislature to make sure that Milwaukee County can effectively lower property taxes and dedicate funding to key County services. A supermajority of the County Board is determined to fight for dedicated funding to save the bus system, preserve parks and reduce the property tax burden on County residents. I am asking for help from the State in fulfilling this sound mission on behalf of our constituents."